

From Vietnam to VA Volunteer

Joseph (Joe) Semanco joined the United States Army in 1962, at the age of 17, serving in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969.

"I always wanted to go into the military. "When I was young, I dreamed of jumping out of planes. My first airplane ride was the first plane I jumped out of. I was the first man on the left door to jump—loved it!"

During Joe's time in Vietnam, he was reconnaissance. Reconnaissance teams usually consisted of a 13-person squad whose primary purpose was to seek, find, and report enemy activity and movements. "We were lucky to have half of us return. Most times we sought, fought, and hoped to come back," shared Joe.

Following Vietnam, Joe found himself discharged and back home in Pennsylvania working at a truck stop with his dad. He then went to work with Penske as a mechanic and retired from there years later. "I try not to dwell on things. Past can't be changed. I just focus on things in the present and try to enjoy my life."

For his health care needs, he receives all of his care through VA. "I enrolled as soon as I came home from the service and the care has been great all of these many years."

For the past 9 years, Joe has volunteered at the Butler VA as a driver transporting Veterans to their VA appointments. "I love driving. Will drive when or wherever they need me.

*"I love driving.
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The Butler VA Health Care System is celebrating National Volunteer Week April 17-23, 2022. The volunteer program at the Butler VA has a roster of more than 200 volunteers who provide over 40,000 hours of service each year. Thank you, Joe! And thank you to all our amazing Butler VA volunteers!

Interested in volunteering? Learn more: www.va.gov/butler-health-care/work-with-us/volunteer-or-donate/.



Convenient digital health tools

Access your health care conveniently through digital tools like the My HealtheVet portal, mobile apps, and telehealth services. Secure messaging, digital appointment management, prescription refills and virtual appointments make it easy to connect with us.

Enroll today! www.choose.va.gov.

National Healthcare Decisions Day is April 16

VA encourages you to start a conversation about what matters most. Talk with your loved ones and consider writing your decisions in an advance directive. To learn more visit: https://www.ethics.va.gov/for_veterans.asp



It's never too late to
take your next step
toward healing.



SUPPORT MST SURVIVORS ON THEIR PATH TOWARD HEALING

With the message “We believe you, and we believe in you,” VA is reaching out to survivors and their families, friends, and supporters throughout Sexual Assault Awareness Month this April. To help VA raise awareness, visit www.MentalHealth.va.gov/SAAM, where you'll find helpful resources and materials you can explore and share with others. By spreading the word and learning more about this topic, you can help MST survivors move forward on their healing journey.

If you or someone you know experienced MST and is interested in learning more, contact the Butler VA's MST Coordinator at 878-271-6268.

APRIL CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS – REGISTER NOW!

We kicked off some new creative arts workshops last month, but there's more coming in April! Join us for Chalk Pastels Art, Acrylic Painting, Pottery, and Fluid Art (pour painting) this month.

Check out the events page on Facebook to see what is being offered and register today: www.facebook.com/VAButlerPA/events.



IT'S WHOLE HEALTH MONTH!

Get started living Whole Health by checking out Whole Health resources and interactive tools that can take you to the next step in your whole health journey. Get started here: va.gov/WholeHealth

Whole Health Month is also the perfect time to download the Live Whole health app. VA's Live Whole Health app is a free, easy to use tool created for Veterans and others who are ready to take the next step in their Whole Health journey. With this app, you can fill out your personal health inventory, set goals, and learn more about Whole Health. Download the app today: <https://mobile.va.gov/app/live-whole-health>.

SALUTE YOU

Thank you for your service JOE LOFTON, U.S. Army



Retired U.S. Army and Vietnam Veteran Joe Lofton served as a Supply Sergeant, and on reconnaissance teams while in Vietnam. He earned a Bronze Star, Air Medal, and an Accommodation Medal for his service in the United States Army.

Let us “Salute You!” Contact the Butler VA Public Affairs Office for more information.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Butler VA Health Care System



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